UK Statement on the 90 Day Briefing of the 1737 Iran Sanctions Committee

15 September 2010

Delivered by Mark Lyall Grant, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations.

I would like to thank Ambassador Nishida for his first briefing as Chair of the 1737 Committee, and welcome him to that position. Ambassador, we have full confidence that under your leadership, the Committee will continue to fulfill its important mandate. Your committee’s role will be of critical importance as we pursue the dual track strategy to resolve the Iran nuclear issue.

Mr. President,

This briefing comes just days after the release of the latest IAEA report on Iran. This report reinforces the strong messages from successive reports that Iran continues to defy multiple UN Resolutions, and is failing to co-operate fully with the Agency.

The report makes clear that Iran has not suspended its enrichment related activities or work on its heavy water related projects. It indicates that Iran has produced 2,803kg of low enriched uranium (LEU), enriched to less than 5%.

The report also states that Iran has produced 22 kg of LEU enriched to just under 20%. This is a significant step towards the ability to enrich to weapons grade levels, and Iran has no credible civilian application for this level of enriched uranium.

The report again makes clear that in the case of two facilities, Iran did not notify the Agency in a timely manner of its decision to construct, or authorise construction of them, and that this is inconsistent with Iran’s obligation under the Subsidiary Arrangements of its Safeguards Agreement.

Once again the report states that Iran has not discussed possible military dimensions to their programme with the Agency since August 2008. The agency therefore and I quote ‘remains concerned about the possible existence in Iran of
past or current undisclosed nuclear related activities, involving military related organizations, including activities relating to the development of a payload for a missile.

In summary, the report states that and I quote ‘while the Agency continues to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material in Iran, Iran has not provided the necessary cooperation to permit the Agency to confirm that all nuclear material in Iran is in peaceful activities.’

I would also like to highlight our concern at Iran’s engagement in activities related to ballistic missiles that are capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including a launch reported in the Iranian media last month that used ballistic missile technology. Paragraph 9 of Resolution 1929 prohibits such activities. The Security Council and the 1737 Committee will need to consider an appropriate response to Iran’s actions.

Mr President,

We remain deeply concerned about Iran’s nuclear programme and about its serial violation of the resolutions of this Council, which is why we supported UN Resolution 1929 which introduced further sanctions against Iran.

The additional measures imposed by that resolution have now been in force for three months. So it is a good moment to take stock on the implementation of the additional measures imposed on Iran and the new obligations for all UN Member States.

While many states have acted promptly to adjust their laws and procedures, we would remind those states that have yet to report to the 1737 Committee on the measures taken to do so as soon as possible. For the dual track strategy to succeed, the effective and rigorous implementation by states of all these measures, and those in the Council’s previous resolutions, will be a vital part of the dual track policy. The 1737 Committee will have a key and growing role in ensuring this implementation – both through monitoring implementation and advising states where necessary.

We were therefore pleased to see a rigorous and specific work programme submitted to the Council on 23rd July. We also look forward to the early appointment of a professional and dedicated Panel of Experts. This Panel will be essential to the effective delivery of that work programme. The Panel will also provide an additional level of scrutiny directly to the Council on the implementation of measures, making recommendations where necessary. I would urge the Committee and the Secretariat to make every effort to operationalise this panel as soon as possible.
Mr President,

We remain ready to resume the talks on Iran’s nuclear programme we started in Geneva on the 1 October 2009. We believe that such talks can lead to a solution if they are purposeful, discuss both sides’ concerns and make swift progress. In again extending our hand, we show our determination to resolve these matters through dialogue and diplomacy.

Thank you, Mr President.